



Nature inclusive futures

From nature-inclusive visions to nature-inclusive action
The case of Bonaire

Nature Inclusive planning of Small Island Development
Programme Nature inclusive transitions (KB-36-005-002)



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Nature Inclusive Futures

From nature-inclusive visions to nature-inclusive action The case of Bonaire

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Bonaire 2050: A nature inclusive vision

1. Nature inclusive: from concept to vision

Nature inclusive development refers to the notion of interweaving nature in all sectors of society, as a basis for sustainable development. Nature inclusive development bridges the so far separated worlds of nature conservation with sustainable development, and emphasises the interconnectivity between the two. Nature inclusiveness in the Netherlands finds its origin in the policy documents 'Natuurlijk kapitaal' and the 'Rijksnatuurvisie' respectively written in 2013 and 2014.

The concept was originally defined as 'nature included' which should be understood as 'a way of thinking and acting in which nature is always part (of the process)' (EZ, 2014). At an institutional level, the concept emphasizes the embedding of nature considerations into a range of cross-sectoral planning processes, policies, standards and regulations, but also into general awareness, formal and informal policy processes. This implies that for all sectoral development planning efforts, i.e. industry, infrastructure, real estate, and spatial planning, nature is no longer considered as 'loss and damage' to be compensated, but as an upfront consideration before any investment is made. A consideration that goes beyond a divide.

Nature inclusiveness is all about a shared understanding of the values and functioning of ecosystems in all its diversity as a basis to develop and implement systemic solutions to enhance biodiversity while providing the needs of society. It is based on the solemn belief nature is as the very foundation of a healthy and resilient society and economy. Just recently the concept of nature positive adds to this. A concept that focuses on regeneration and resilience, rather than conservation and restoration. Ambitions has been raised to zero loss of nature from now on to nature positive by 2030, embracing the importance of biodiversity and an all-encompassing role and place of nature through society.

Nature inclusiveness as a concept fits well in the development model of Bonaire, one of the Dutch Caribbean islands, which has built a culture and an economy on its natural wealth. Bonaire however, is facing major challenges: managing (mass) tourism and population growth, preventing high erosion rates due to free-roaming livestock, recharging fresh water into the soil, increasing the use of renewable energy, adaptation to sea level rise and extreme weather events, halting biodiversity loss, as well as transparent and responsible spatial planning (Verweij et al., 2022).

Departing from the current trends, Bonaire will look different in thirty years. As this would inevitably increase the challenges, a new way of thinking, planning and acting is needed (ibid.). To initiate such a new way of thinking, planning and acting, a vision for Bonaire in 2050 has been created by WUR scientists taking part in the WUR project 'Nature Inclusive Futures', funded by the Knowledge Basis programme of WUR (KB 36). The key message of this vision is that it outlines a future in which economic development and a nature inclusive society join forces to maintain what is precious, and to improve what is already threatened or impaired (ibid.). Based on a series of design sessions, complemented with interviews and workshops with local experts and researchers, the knowledge of island experts and decision-makers from different sectors were brought together to create a shared understanding and the vision A nature inclusive vision Bonaire 2050. Last but not least, they also reflected on the measures that are to be taken in order to truly realise the vision.

2. Turning vision into action

The research team is aware of the fact that having a vision is only the beginning of societal change; it is not enough to instigate the change that is needed. The many design sessions, workshops, interviews and conversations were highly inspiring, yet the team decided to do even more, to bring its 'knowledge into action'. This was the motivation of the team to invest more in connecting the vision to local action on the ground.

Based on the maps that were created and the landscapes and sectors that were studied, local initiatives were identified and scanned on their potential to bring knowledge into action. Potential initiatives that passed the review were: a group of non-governmental conservation organisations, a fishermen's group, a farmers group, a group of active citizens in Rincon, and a group of young entrepreneurs working in the tourist sector. The latter two initiatives were selected, as an example of respectively a) an area based initiative (citizens living or working in Rincon Valley), and b) a sector based initiative (young entrepreneurs in the tourist sector). With both initiatives, a series of 'Kitchen Cabinets' were organised in 2022, as informal co-creative meetings during which participants could share their ambitions and ideas, and collectively explore ways of turning these into collective action.

The word 'Kitchen Cabinet' refers to the so-called 'keukentafelgesprekken' which are popular policy instruments applied in the Netherlands in situations of rural transitions. Currently this instrument is widely applied in different sectors. During the large-scale reconstruction of the rural areas in the Netherlands in the 20th century, large participatory information sessions were organised, to involve the population in decision making regarding rural space. Due to the large individual and societal impact of the foreseen measures of re-allotment, the kitchen table proved to be more appropriate to share and prepare for delicate decisions. Experts and policy makers visited rural households to have informal conversations around the kitchen tables. This personal and informal approach was effective, as it levelled power relations, and led to constructive dialogue. As such, these 'keukentafelgesprekken' have proven to be valuable in engaging actors at the local level, thus preventing or dealing with potential conflicts. The instrument became a popular instrument that was used in many processes of rural change and development in the Netherlands.

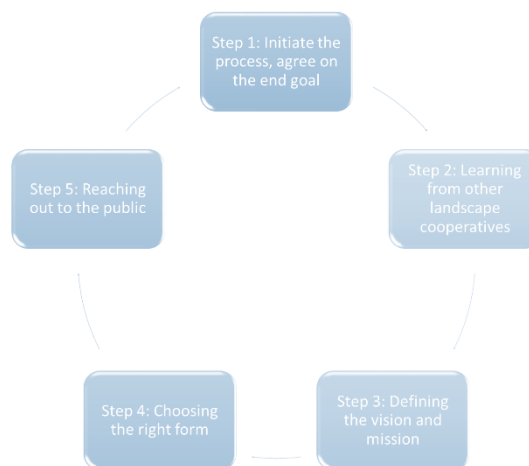
A literal translation of the Dutch term 'keukentafelgesprek' into English would not make sense. Therefore, the English term 'Kitchen Cabinet' was adopted. Originally, a Kitchen Cabinet in the UK context refers to a group of trusted friends or associates that gets together with a purpose. In the political world, it is sometimes used in reference to a president's or presidential candidate's closest unofficial advisers. A Kitchen Cabinet takes place outside of the formal political realm, to seek trusted advice on politically sensitive issues. It is the spirit of trust and informality that seemed appropriate to share the research findings with local stakeholders, and was therefore adopted by the research team and made instrumental to its strategy. The best Papiamentu word that reflects the notion of a 'Kitchen Cabinet' or 'Keukentafelgesprek' would be *Ramada Kai*, which refers to the canopy or shelter under which dinner is served, sensitive conversations are held, and deals are made. After having implemented a series of *Ramada Kai* it was confirmed that it was an effective instrument of having ambitions and supporting local initiatives, as a contribution towards a nature inclusive future.

In addition, two events were organised, to share the research results with a wider public, and to invite the public to engage in the process. First, a workshop was organised for a wider group of public, private and civic stakeholders, amongst which are the many nature-related NGOs (non-governmental organizations) operating on the island. Second, a popular event was organised to share the results with the wider public, involving all groups of inhabitants and citizens in a culturally appropriate manner. The latter was organised together with Mangazina di Rei in Rincon, and brought together hundreds of engaged citizens, to celebrate the richness of the area of Rincon, and its potential for nature-inclusive development. The event, popularly called 'Nos Zjilea,' was broadcasted on the radio, featured in the newspapers, and widely shared on social media. Although called dissemination events, the actual aim of these events was to

2.1 Kitchen Cabinet 1

Co-creating a Landscape Cooperative in Rincon

In June 2022 the first Kitchen Cabinet about Rincon was organised. A dedicated group gathered around the kitchen table in Mangazina di Rei, a historic cultural centre in Rincon, to share ambitions and explore ideas to bring this ambitions further together. Before starting the Kitchen Cabinets, WUR and Mangazina di Rei agreed on undertaking the Kitchen Cabinets in partnership, in which both partners are equal. It was agreed that Mangazina di Rei would take the overall lead in organising a core group, while WUR would take care of the overall process design. In fact, as a true kitchen cabinet defines, it was all about an iterative process. After each kitchen cabinet the follow-up came up accordingly. The core group that was formed consists of a small, dedicated but highly divers group of committed team. The team consists of representatives of Mangazina di Rei, STINAPA, the ECHO Foundation and local entrepreneurs, united by the belief in the strength of local, cultural and natural values in and around Rincon.



Process model designed and implemented to establish a Landscape Cooperative in Rincon

The process that eventually followed is visualised in the graph above, and is built on five logical steps:

1. Initiate the joint process and agree on the end goal
2. Learning from other landscape cooperatives
3. Defining the vision, the mission and the actions to be taken
4. Choosing the right organisational form;
5. Reaching out to the public.

Step 1: Initiate the process

In June 2022 the first Cabinet was organised. The goal of this cabinet was to share and explore the initial ambitions and ideas and most of all to find out where the synergies are. To quote one of the participants: “We know what we want, but what’s needed to make it happen”.

The core team had a lot of constructive ideas, yet many of which still rather unstructured. Together we explored the ambitions and intentions. What are the values that bond? Is there a shared vision? Embracing social, cultural, natural and especially local values unites the group, bringing this to business and practice together is what challenges.

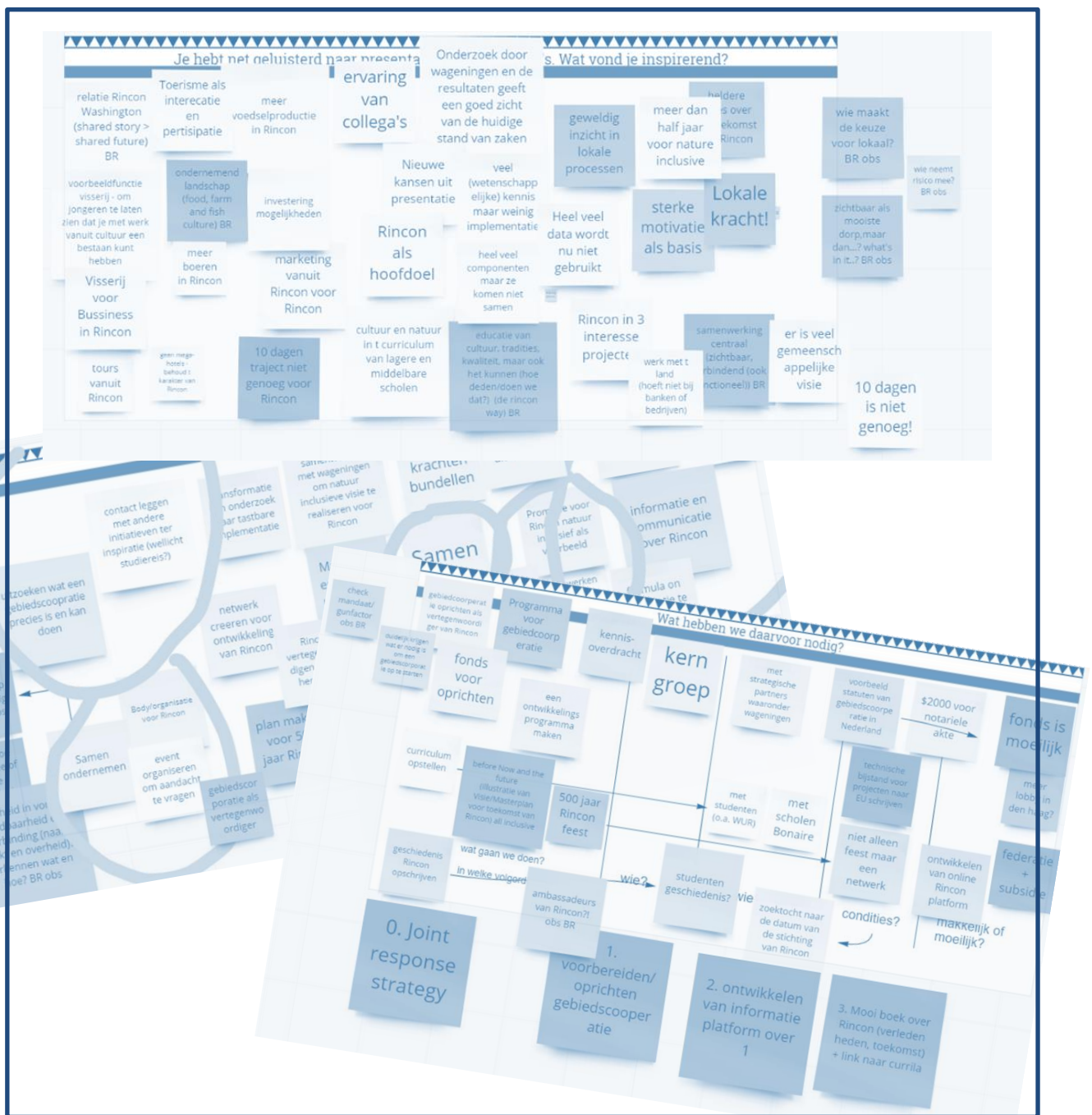
In three steps we brainstormed together on what’s inspiring, what possible opportunities are and what’s needed for that. The richness of this brainstorm is shown in the overview of the Miro-boards that were used as a platform.

Rincon is the oldest settlement on Bonaire. In 2027 it will commemorate its 500 year anniversary. It’s not only the oldest settlement, the village and surroundings of Rincon is unique in culture and nature. Nonetheless, it

is not only looking to the past, but also how this can serve as a catalyzer for future development, livelihood opportunities, business and social cohesion.

There are numerous initiatives or ideas that build upon this notions: reviving agriculture, educational programs (the Bonaire way), protecting and restoring nature, making Rincon nature inclusive, as it was and is, building a network.

From the brainstorm a series of potential actions came forward. We clustered them in coherent packages of actions. The overall consensus in the group was the establishment of a platform, a network or a cooperative with and by inhabitants of Rincon, as the overarching best first step. Already in the initial discussions, the concept of a 'Landscape Cooperative' was mentioned many times. To much of the participants it appealed, but just founding a cooperative sounds easy but needs a clear mission and objective. Nonetheless, a cooperation could have the opportunity to bring all the diverse initiatives and ideas together, in a recognizable, hopefully recognized entity. An entity that could advocate the whole and has the opportunity to better position in the arena. An entity that could build collectiveness and a shared story. A shared story about the current values and a shared perspective and strategy.



Impression Brainstorm session

Step 2: Learning from other landscape cooperatives

The first Cabinet draw the opportunity of a cooperation, but also raised the question what that implies and what is needed to build such a cooperation. The second Cabinet was dedicated on joint fact finding about area-based and landscape cooperatives. What's better than to hear from current initiatives and find out what the do's and don'ts are of such a cooperative. Are there different flavours? What are key ingredients and what choices to make?

In introduction was given about the different flavours of cooperation's and the means of a cooperation. Why choose for a cooperation, collective, foundation or an association? This all has to with reciprocity and responsibilities (rights and obligations). This further outlined in step 4.

Four existing landscape cooperatives joint the session, and shared their stories, the difficulties they encountered, and their strategies to overcome these difficulties. We heard from the Binnenveldse Hooilanden, the Dal van de Kleine Beerze, the Westerkwartier, and the Duinboeren, four different examples with very different stories. Based on the stories, a MIRO board was created, with reflections on the examples and lessons learned.



Impression Exploring landscape cooperatives

Key takeaways from this Cabinet were:

- Think about a clear overarching vision and mission statement (common objective)
- Connect to, fit in or add on to an area plan or policy
- Choose an organisation form fit for purpose
- Think about board and members (boards from within)
- Think about reciprocity (what's in it for the cooperation and what's in for the members?)
- Define clearly what you will do and what's out
- Start small; ambitions are good, but extend gradually.

To conclude, the next Cabinet should be dedicated to define a vision and mission statement. In doing so, this will also set the basis for further choices.

Step 3: Defining the vision, the mission and the action to be taken

In the 3rd Cabinet the aim was to develop a mission statement that also sets a basis for a joint response strategy. Looking back at the 2ⁿ atelier the participants made a recap on the crucial take-aways: start small, be clear what you are going to do, an active role of members and reciprocity and participatory (people centered). Based on these reflections, a first attempt was made to formulate a first mission statement:

"As the Area Cooperative Rincon, we bring together organizations and businesses for a sustainable and diverse Rincon, in which the culture of people is central. We see the uniqueness of Rincon as something we are proud of and may not to be lost, but has to be preserved and tastefully developed, for us and for generations to come. As the Rincon Area Cooperative, we commit ourselves to area promotion, nature-inclusive area development, advocacy, cooperation and knowledge exchange".

This mission statement will form the core of the legal documentation required for formal establishment of the Landscape Cooperative Rincon. It shows ambition, but especially the areas and activities that are in focus.

Also the support team of Wageningen University & Research formulated their mission statement, as 'what sauce is if for the goose is sauce for the gander':

"We, members of the Wageningen project team, are committed to work with the Landscape Cooperative Rincon. We have confidence in the people of Rincon, who are in the process of establishing a Landscape Cooperative, as a driver of nature inclusive development. We want to work with the Cooperative, and learn how local initiatives like this can contribute to a policy dialogue for a more nature inclusive Bonaire. We do not consider Rincon as a 'just another' pilot, but as an example of nature inclusive development, based on a strong local identity and local entrepreneurship".

With this mission statement, the group formulated a series of actions to be taken by the Cooperative. These actions are the following:

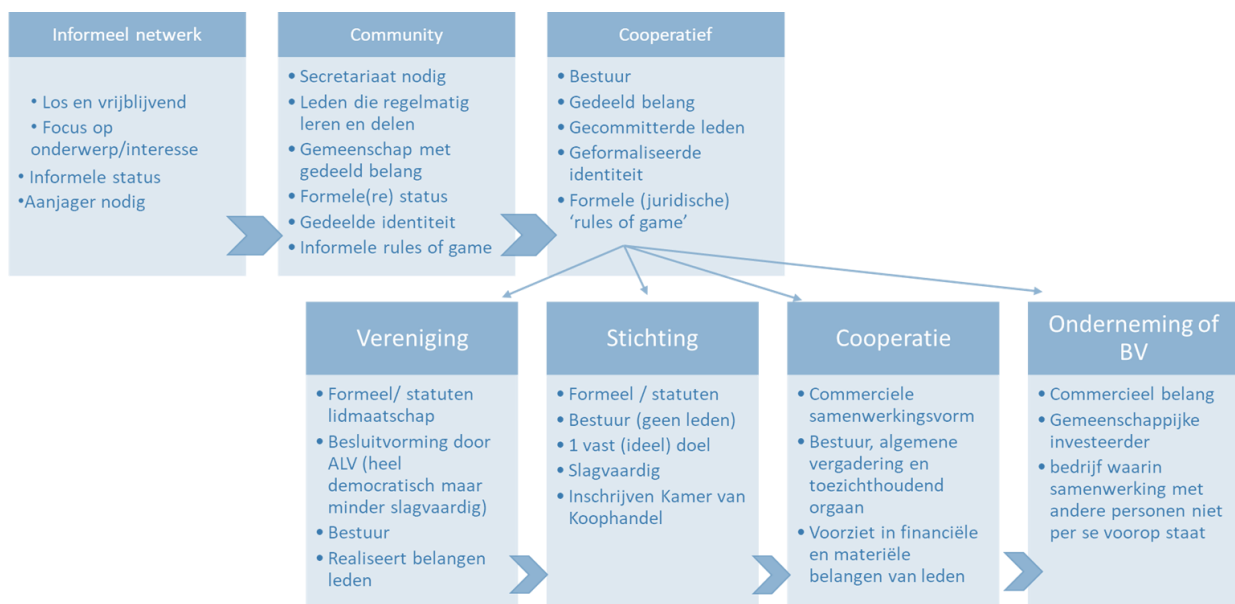
1. Joint promotion of the Rincon landscape, through joint publication of the establishment of the Cooperative, joint marketing of Rincon's products, and development of a Rincon Brand
2. Preparation of a spatial plan, with clear zonation of the area (in collaboration with OLB)
3. Establishment of a 'Landscape Academy' which offers space for agricultural innovation, agroforestry and otherwise experimental agro-ecological production tailored to the spatial conditions of Rincon
4. Establishment of a project desk, for business development and technical support
5. Development of a landscape business model, with documented good practices and lessons learned

With these activities, the Landscape Cooperative aims firmly establish itself, develop and test a methodology for landscape development, and contribute to a nature-inclusive development of Rincon. This methodology has the potential to evolve into a replicable model, to be adapted and scaled throughout the other islands in the region,

Step 4: Choosing the right organisational form

Departing from the vision, the mission, and the envisaged actions to be taken, a study was carried out into the different organisational formats and juridical constructions, ranging from a loose and informal network to a formalised enterprise.

After analysis, consultation and deliberation, the format of a cooperative which was already chosen before, was unanimously confirmed. A cooperative appeals to the spirit of collectiveness, as it has a solid membership structure, which provides for optimal engagement of members through joint responsibility, and collective ownership. A cooperative has the possibility to be non-commercial at the onset, but potentially grown into a commercial enterprise, depending on the purpose of the actions and the desires of the members. A cooperative can be area-based or landscape oriented, as shown by a number of landscape cooperatives which were established before. A cooperative allows for building on a strong spatial identity and 'sense of belonging' of its members, as it can be embedded in the landscape of Rincon, build on its multiple landscape functions, and allows for the development of its particular products and services, through the development of a single brand.



The right form

Step 5: Reaching out to the public

The establishment of any membership organisation or cooperative depends on the level of ownership and sense of responsibility of its members. Therefore, clear and transparent communication with members and potential members is of utmost importance, to gain their support from the onset. For the landscape cooperative of Rincon, the best way to communicate its establishment and seek wider popular support is through the launch during the Nos Zjilea, which is a recurrent cultural event, organised on Mangazina di Rei in Rincon. As the Nos Zjilea events are highly popular, it is suitable as a springboard for sharing the plans, and getting a large popular buy-in. As the Wageningen team had already planned for a visit in November, the November Nos Zjilea was chosen as a good moment to celebrate the launch the Landscape Cooperative Rincon together. During the event, the nature-inclusive visions for Bonaire and Rincon were presented, and potential pathways towards a nature-inclusive future were presented and discussed. By presenting the Landscape Cooperative of Rincon as one potential pathway towards a nature-inclusive future, the Nos Zjilea created a momentum for action, with the establishment of a cooperative as a natural start.

More about the Nos Zjilea event is presented under section 3.4.

**SEE, FEEL & TASTE
THE CULTURE OF BONAIRE**

Saturday, November 26th
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
at our cultural park on the east
side road of the valley of Rincon

November theme:
**"It is in our
Nature"**
with Julianka Clarendia
& Peter Verweij

Cultural Event **NOS Zjilea**
It doesn't get
more local
than this

GOBIERNU DI BONAIRE
CORAL CASINO BONAIRE
iT Connection
Lillman's

Announcement Noz Zjilea

Nos Zjilea Saturday, Nov. 26

It's in our nature

The new slogan of Bonaire is 'It's in our nature.' Birds like the Caracara and the Yellow Amazon parrot, trees like the Lifetree, but also the coral and the shells make the nature of Bonaire unique. However, the nature does have its challenges. There are periods with a lot of drought and periods with a lot of rain. In addition, by cutting down the trees, the fertile soil is washed into the sea.

The next edition of Nos Zjilea will be held on Saturday, November 26 at Mangazina di Rei in Rincon with the theme 'It is in our nature.' According to Peter Verweij from the foundation ECHO, nature inclusivity can help Bonaire to become a sustainable island.

Nature inclusivity is a way of living and working that benefits both nature and humans. Peter Verweij will present the research results and a vision of what Bonaire could look like in 2050.

Nature inclusivity also leads to a more healthy and sustainable economy which in turn contributes to the wellbeing of the people. Julianka Clarendia will speak about the benefits of nature inclusivity for Bonairean organizations.

The Miss Bonaire candidates will be part of the program. The culture market has local fresh products such as natural fruit juices, herbal teas, delicacies. The local art should not be missed. The kitchen opens at 10 a.m. with a wide variety of soups and the opportunity to sample various local creole dishes, including seafood, during the afternoon. All this in a cozy atmosphere with a "live" performance by "Dairon Entertainment" and the local band "Watapana."

For more information, please visit Mangazina di Rei's Facebook fan page,
www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei
By Jaun Mercera

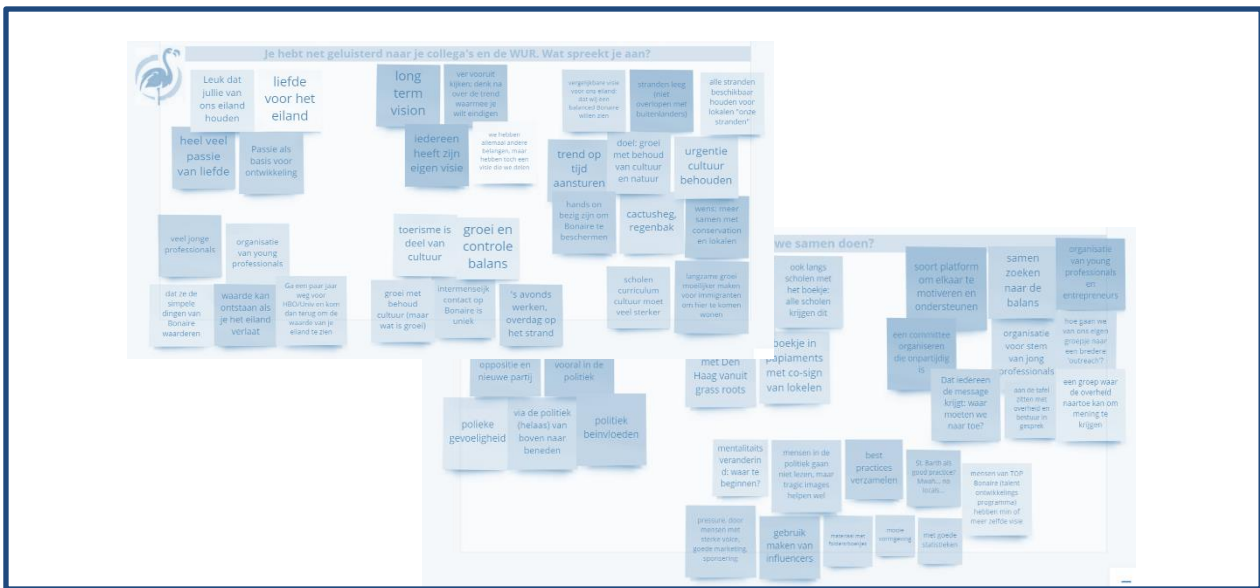
GOBIERNU DI BONAIRE
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Lillman's

2.2 Kitchen Cabinet 2: Young entrepreneurs in the tourist sector

The second Kitchen Cabinet was not area-based, but sector based, and focused on young Bonairean entrepreneurs in the tourism sector. A group of about 10 young entrepreneurs active in the tourism sector were at the table. They are engaged in tourism in different ways, ranging from tour operator, hospitality, art & culture, tour guide to even real estate development. The set-up of this Kitchen Cabinet was similar to the Kitchen Cabinet in Rincon, although adapted along the line, in line with the aims and expectations of the participating entrepreneurs.

Step 1: Sharing perspectives and ambitions

Like in Rincon, we kick-offed with a joined exploration of perspectives, perceptions and most of all ambitions. Where do the ambitions meet? What shared perspectives are there and what to do together?



Impression Brainstorm Young entrepreneurs

An interesting and broad brainstorm followed. Just like we observed in Rincon, there is a profound appreciation for the island. The group is passionate about its culture and its natural qualities. An interesting discussion comes in when talking about tourism and the island. On the one hand, tourism is part of the culture or the other way around, culture is also a part of tourism. On the other hand, the balance between these qualities and the opportunities for growth, business and economy seems challenging. However, a common felt need for a clear vision on a (new) balance between tourism and nature unites the group. In this vision the role of youth, young entrepreneurs and the next generation should be clearly in focus. Deep reflection were made on the role of politics and the way in which young entrepreneurs could exercise more influence on politics, and take part in the political debate.

Most interesting are the discussions about the identity and the quality of the island. "There is something, but it is hard to describe. You have to experience it yourself". So it's also about defining what it is with Bonaire and its people. "Who are we, where do we stand for together, what do we want and where do we draw a line?" The desire is to set up a network by and for young tourism entrepreneurs, to have a platform for mutual support, and collective lobby and advocacy for a nature inclusive tourism sector.



Impression brainstorm Young entrepreneurs

Together we should outline and find the balance; for the short term and the long term. This also has to be supported with good statistics and insights in potential benefits and trade-offs. Conditionally it requires a positive framing!

Step 2: Defining the vision and mission, and action to be undertaken

In the second kitchen cabinet the group looked back at the intentions of last time, and took some time brainstorm some ideas for the future.

The main insights were that:

Awareness is lacking- and more island-wide events are needed to stimulate nature-inclusive action. This could be a week or month- where businesses are encouraged to act with renewable-mindsets, with recyclable packaging, and renewable energy (TNO research was done on this), and restaurants are challenged to engage with local food-producers. Engaging all the ABC islands in the this impact week or month was another idea and connecting all media to the event as well: radio, influencers, artists and famous people to also participate and create awareness. Role of the entrepreneurs an collective to start this movement still needs to be established with future meetings.

Microfinancing for agriculture is available yet the interest rates are very high, so that is a problem for starting entrepreneurs. Ideas were discussed about how to engage entrepreneurs in community initiatives in the agricultural sector so that not all expenses have to fall on single start-ups. One of the participants is hosting a business incubator together with LVV to help support collective water and greenhouse arrangements

Insight is needed in how to connect with people- the consumerist culture is hard to break through, creating more awareness programs can be key to shifting the mindset.

Involving OCW and other Educative organisations. Creating awareness in children at school and through kids programs like at Echo, where kids get the chance to create with nature in mind. This can be done through programs like the junior rangers of Stinapa, or together with the initiatives created with entrepreneurs and nature stakeholders.

Involving millennials – is key to making nature- inclusive transitions desirable, a podcast involving making your own food and starting kunuku-based business plans is a budding initiative through the business incubator. More social media attention is also required to gain traction with millennials and through them interest of younger people and growing start-ups.

These ideas were discussed and plans to connect young entrepreneurs with these still need to be worked out concretely. We have collected contact information and hope to stay connected with this group in the future programme to further the discussion on community entrepreneurial initiatives.



Impression Second kitchen cabinet Young entrepreneurs

2.3 The Stakeholder Workshop

There are many ways to hold a dialogue, depending on the objective, the nature of the content to be dialogued, and the characteristics of the stakeholders involved. In the context of the project, a dialogue was organised as a workshop, organised for and with project partners, to exchange on the research outcomes and freely reflect on it. The workshop was purposely designed on a series of participatory exercises and games, and an open dialogue in smaller groups.

A wide range of stakeholders took part, reflecting on the presented research outcomes, and answering questions such as: which of the research outcomes triggered your thinking; what hampers us in the transition to a nature-inclusive Bonaire; how do *you* contribute to a nature-inclusive transition; how could further collaboration with WUR help to answer these questions; and how to grasp opportunities for joint fundraising.

The workshop consisted of three parts: 1) getting to know each other, 2) presentation of the research outcomes and recommendations, 3) discussing potential pathways towards a nature-inclusive future. In order to get to know each other, get the group moving and get the dialogue started, participants were asked to place themselves (or the organization they represent) on one of four points on the floor that were marked as: nature conservation, economic growth, socio-cultural wellbeing or nature-inclusive development. Although the majority of participants were in the nature conservation realm, some stood in the nature-inclusive there were a couple of outliers in the socio-economic wellbeing and economic growth spaces. The dialogue surrounding these topics showed that most of the participants were in agreement that if nature-inclusiveness was the basis, the other aspects of conservation and socio-economic prosperity would follow. The economic growth part was interpreted as development rather than growth, which could also be supported by a nature inclusive vision.



Impression workshop

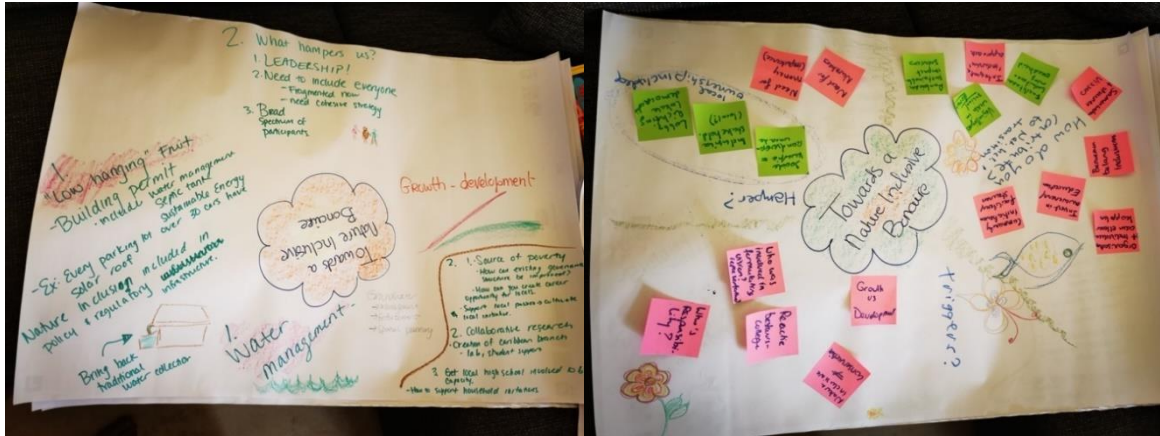
The discussion that followed was encouraged through a series of radical statements. Participants were asked choose a side and defend their position. These statements were able to drive nuances into the discussion as participants explained that the wording of the statement could shift their position from agreement to disagreement. The statements related to the island immigration policy, tourism as key to economic development, nature conservation in combination with development, and strengthening local initiatives.

These statements brought to light several ideas:

- There is no shortage of local initiatives, but that there was need for a political structure to support these- the local lobby is lacking
- The immigration policy may need restrictions to be sustainable
- Enablers and educators should be recruited and initiatives with schools and universities: like TOP Bonaire- students at universities (on the islands or in NL) recruited to the islands for internship opportunities
- While a noble ideal, there is currently still limited evidence of conservation and development being successfully combined-

The presentation of our research outcomes was followed up with another group session about ideas and hindrances for future projects. Many hindrances were discussed, yet most could be summarized by: poverty,

mindset and governance. Suggestions for future initiatives ranged from ideas to subsidize nature inclusive mindsets, to understanding the source and effect of poverty on the islands. Connecting nature inclusive incentives for in eco-tourism, urban planning and local education and entrepreneurship were also mentioned. Research in understanding behavioural changes and surveying the residents' interest in implementing nature inclusive household measures. Finally, suggestions to further develop practical and local examples in order to showcase what works in practice. Both top down (subsidies and initiatives) and bottom up ideas were exchanged for future project directions.



Impression workshop

Many relevant follow up questions were asked for future projects such as: **how should (governmental or local) processes be best designed to ensure the implementation of nature inclusive developments? Which sustainability standards can be included in public sector governance?**

The event was met with some tips and tops. The participants generally appreciated the presentation of outcomes; yet major tip was to include a broader range of different sector representatives. There was a clear bias in nature conservation minded organisations.

2.4 Nos Zjilea Popular Event

The Nos Zjilea is a recurrent event in Rincon, organised by the historic museum Mangazina di Rei. Its aim is to promote the rich culture of Bonaire, and allows visitors to get a taste of the local culture of Rincon. The Nos Zjilea events are organised in a way that allows participants to learn about the cultural roots of Rincon, and promote the locally produced arts and crafts, plants, vegetables and food, music and more. It is highly educational, and fits the topic of nature inclusive futures. Organising a popular event with the staff of Mangazina di Rei, so it was thought, would strengthen the relation with this valuable research partner, build on a growing community of supporters, and include 'nature inclusiveness' in a rich history of cultural events (<https://www.tourismbonaire.com/bonaire-events>). With this, so it was assumed, the concept of nature inclusiveness would be popularised and spread over the island, increasing the project's impact. The event was combined with radio shows, the preparation of a film, and large social media outreach in the form of tens of thousands views.

Together with the team of Mangazina di Rei and the members of the first Kitchen Cabinet, it was decided to dedicate one Nos Zjilea event to the presentation and discussion of the research outcomes. During the events, strides were made in the creation of impact and awareness on nature-inclusive development, through showcasing the results. The event was a combination of interactive presentations, a Bonairian cooking workshop, performance of local bands, market stands with local food and handmade products, all broadcasted on radio, TV and covered by newspapers.

In the opening presentation, the project leader of our project 'Nature Inclusive planning of Small Island Development' gave an overview of the last four years of work on the project, and officially handed over the vision booklet to the acting Lieutenant Governor of the public entity of Bonaire.



Handing over the vision to the deputy Lieutenant Governor of the public entity of Bonaire, Nolly Oleana, by Peter Verweij (project leader WUR)

In the second presentation after a musical interlude and starting of the cooking workshop, the project team presented the results zooming in on the results for kunuku areas, and nature inclusive options that could be relevant to the inland area of Rincon.



Impression Nos Zjilea



Lastly, the team presented together with Rincon representatives and the director of the Mangazina di Rei the results from the local regional cooperation that stemmed from several Kitchen Cabinet workshops held during the course of the project. The local representatives shared their vision and mission statement with the public. There was an opportunity to ask questions or sign up for more information for those that showed interest in the initiative.

Online

<https://bonaire.nu/2022/11/23/zaterdag-evenement-het-zit-in-onze-natuur/>

<https://rss.com/podcasts/mhfmlokaalnieuws/703060/>



Television interview: Curcaco TV network

2.5 Presentation to the Island Council

Two outlooks have been developed through a participatory process with key actors from various sectors. The outlooks are a result of a series of design sessions, interviews and workshops with local experts, decision makers and researchers, underpinned by scientific data and field observations. For one of the outlooks, current trends have been extrapolated into the future until 2050. For the other outlook, a vision for Bonaire in 2050 is portrayed, in which nature is interwoven into all sectors. This includes integrating nature inclusive measures, such as rooftop water harvesting, reforestation and greening gardens using indigenous species and growing local food. We calculated how these measures would bend the curves of the projected current trends.

The outlooks represent a range of options of the direction the future might take and what can be done to steer one way or the other. They are the basis to engage people in exploring possible futures and their consequences for society. This takes off blindfolds to avoid moving unconsciously into future situations that would be harmful and undesirable. Putting numbers to the outlooks helps people envision a desirable future and how to reach it. These outlooks have been presented to Bonaire's Island Council on November 15th. The presentation was requested for several of the stakeholders to formally hand over the results of 4 years of collaboration between a diverse group of stakeholders and interdisciplinary researchers. A team of four presenters shared the insights in a one-and-a-half hour's dialogue with six council representatives. Two of the four presenters were representatives of the Wageningen researchers, the other two were representatives of the stakeholders (sustainable tourism and cultural history).



Group photo participants after the Island council presentation

(from left to right): Ellie Noij-Penning (Policy advisor local government OLB, spatial planning), Elesier Angel (Tourism Corporation Bonaire, stakeholder representative), Hennyson Thielman (council member Economic affairs), Peter Verweij (project-coordinator), Pablo Kroon (council member spatial planning), Anouk Cormont (senior researcher), Nolly Oleana (deputy Lieutenant Governor), Danilo Christiaan (Mangazina di Rei, stakeholder representative).

3. Nature inclusive Futures: An example of Knowledge in Action

Science for impact, so it is stated in the WUR strategy (WUR, 2020), means that it is in the veins of Wageningen researchers to not just study and inform societal change, but also actively engage in socio-spatial innovation and change. The presented project is a good example of this approach, as it did not only study potential pathways towards a nature-inclusive future, but also to the co-creation of shared visions, and the development of actionable steps towards it. The vision of this project was created through multiple stakeholder engagement sessions, surveys, interviews and co-creation workshops. The outcomes were truly shared through engagement with public, private and civic actors on the island. This fits the Wageningen University and Research strategy of 'science for impact'.

Through series of Kitchen Cabinets, workshops and popular events, the visions were spread, stakeholders were actively engaged, and local initiatives were strengthened. This report describes the efforts to support two local initiatives, one of which is landscape based and one is sector based. It describes the development of a methodology to support local initiatives, and led to the establishment of a Landscape Cooperative in Rincon. It describes the process of building a five steps methodology, starting with the initiation of a joint process by: 1) gathering stakeholders around a 'kitchen table' and agreeing on and agree on the end goal to be pursued; 2) learning from other landscape cooperatives and build upon; 3) defining the vision, the mission and the actions to be taken; 4) choosing the right organisational form; and 5) reaching out to the public.

Moreover, the report describes the workshops that were organised with and for public, private and civic stakeholders, and the discussions that they raised. Finally, it describes the popular Nos Zjilea event, that attracted hundreds of citizens from Rincon and beyond. During this event, the outcomes of the research were shared with the wider public, and celebrated in a vibrant cultural setting.

The report illustrates how, since its beginning, the 'Nature Inclusive Futures' project has been fully embedded in Bonairian society, and engaged local stakeholders during the process, in multiple forms. The research results were co-generated with stakeholders, and discussed with experts, policy makers, and the widest possible public, through the kitchen cabinets, workshops and the popular Nos Zjilea event. The outcomes are built on the insights of many people, and shared with even more. The project of nature inclusive futures on Bonaire is a great example of 'knowledge in action', by informing and fostering transformative change.

Lessons learned

Understanding the possible options for the future comes by creating space to imagine an optimal future rather than react to the current crisis

The workshops and interviews created space for local stakeholders to look towards the best case scenario and come up with different routes to get there. This is different than the reactionary approaches that are currently set up with conservation groups, or land use policy makers struggling to keep up with the growing demands in different sectors. This approach brought to light a different kind of action needed both from the bottom up and the top down approach that ensures that business as usual does not necessarily have to prevail.

Spreading awareness and information through community can create a culture of ownership

Through the public interviews, radio, and newspaper dissemination sessions we became aware of how much support nature inclusivity could gather, and how sharing information can also instigate a change in culture and personal ownership. This was clear in the formation of a regional cooperation but also in the workshop with local entrepreneurs. Each of these groups were working on building a community culture around the concept of nature inclusivity and both mentioned the importance of impactful awareness campaigning. Getting involved through creating local events and community programs was an important tool for both groups.

Connecting initiatives is just as important as creating them

There are many relevant and well-intentioned initiatives on Bonaire, and each in their own scope is making an impact. However, transformational change occurs when all initiatives are pointing at the same shared vision. These connections, if they can be made within sectors and regions sharing this same general vision can help to push the cultural needs forward for institutional changes in policy. These institutional changes in turn create a feedback loop within regional and sectoral initiatives. We have noticed that this feedback loop still needs strong engagement of the community towards this shared vision. Analogous to a fly-wheel that needs some revolutions of very hard work before it can carry on many rotations without much effort. This effort should be made from top down and bottom up players. Though the project activities with both top down and bottom-up stakeholders, we hope that this project has served to engage flywheel supporting the shared vision of the islanders towards a nature inclusive future.



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The mission of Wageningen University & Research is "To explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life". Under the banner Wageningen University & Research, Wageningen University and the specialised research institutes of the Wageningen Research Foundation have joined forces in contributing to finding solutions to important questions in the domain of healthy food and living environment. With its roughly 30 branches, 6,800 employees (6,000 fte) and 12,900 students, Wageningen University & Research is one of the leading organisations in its domain. The unique Wageningen approach lies in its integrated approach to issues and the collaboration between different disciplines.
